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IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL: Many provocative problems will confront public utilities, including telephone companies, in 1957 because they must operate under a rigid ceiling of controlled prices (rates), while their operating expenses continue to increase under rising inflationary flood, Jan. 5. . . . Hush-A-Phone decision may not be appealed to U.S. Supreme Court by FCC nor Bell System . . . stronger test case desired. Changes in law governing rate base in New York proposed by Governor Harriman. Telephone courtesy covered in *Fortune*, Jan. 12. . . . Analyzes two Florida Independent company rate decisions in which the commission took special note of prevailing "tight money" situation. Suggests that "model bill" idea contains hope for enacting state utility relocation laws, Jan. 19. . . . Eisenhower's bumper budget proposal, technically in balance, still countenances very heavy spending. Message infers also that Congress will be asked to raise interest rate on federal agency loans, including REA. Union leaders confer with President on Minimum Wage coverage, Jan. 26.

President's budget message suggested easing burden on small business in registration of security issues with SEC. Virginia Supreme Court modifies principle of passing on municipal taxes on utility services to local customers, Feb. 2. . . . Indiana commission recognizes diminishing purchasing power of dollar in accruing for depreciation. Life insurance companies have met more than one-half of long-term financing of public utilities in recent years. New Jersey supreme court rules unclaimed deposit belongs to electric company, Feb. 9. . . . California commission gives Bell company permission to file rates for industrial mobile telephone service. FCC describes microwave service and highlights its problem of allocating radio frequencies for various uses, Feb. 16. . . . Three bills introduced in Congress to repeal the 750-station exchange operators' exemption. Question of what affect a low original cost rate base has on employe pay raises is considered by New York commission counsel. Federal commercial activities to be reviewed. Final Hush-A-Phone action and bill to raise REA interest also in the news, Feb. 23.

Commissions accused of looking backward instead of forward in fixing utility rates. . . . Scores use of original cost in setting rate base in present inflationary period. Telephone industry should study growth and changes in population, Mar. 2. . . . AT&T Long Lines asks FCC approval to render mobile telephone service as regular part of its long distance facilities. Legislation, providing for reimbursement for relocation of facilities along federal-aid highways, introduced in 14 states. Bills in two states would repeal court decisions requiring use of reproduction cost rate bases. Industry faces tough fight to retain 750-station exchange operator wage-hour exemption, Mar. 9. . . . Hamil keys address before NRECA to the future of REA. In spite of political parties' play to give small business tax relief, President's 71.8-billion-dollar budget makes such reduction unlikely. Appointment of career judges to U. S. Supreme Court should be welcomed by utility industry, Mar. 16. . . . FCC chairman tells House committee about commission's work load. Smithsonian's telephone exhibit formally opened. Senator Bricker introduces communications anti-sabotage bill. President asks congressional approval to transfer 200 million dollars from Farmers Home Loan Administration to REA, Mar. 23. . . . State-by-state progress on legislation permitting utilities reimbursement for relocating facilities in federal-aid highway projects. New developments in accelerated depreciation reported, Mar. 30.

REA Telephone Advisory Committee meets in Washington. FCC proceedings to continue. AT&T Long Lines asks FCC to recognize utility function of mobile telephone service, April 6. . . . New York Governor Harriman fails to stampede legislators into passing his bill to stop New York Tel. Co. rate increase. Compares government-operated postal service with private enter-

prise utility service in present inflation, April 13. . . . Senator Kennedy introduces bill to remove exemption from Wage-Hour Law. . . . Passage doubtful. Senator Morse attacks federal regulatory commissions. House bill would deny electric companies benefits of accelerated depreciation deduction for income tax purposes. April 20. . . . Nine states have laws to permit use of federal funds for reimbursement to utilities for relocation of facilities due to federal-aid highways. Administration's policy of encouraging private enterprise to develop power projects still stands. American Stock Exchange president urges investment bankers to assist small businesses in raising equity capital. April 27.

Alabama congressman introduces bill to prohibit utilities locating facilities within rights-of-way of federal-aid highways. Pennsylvania gas company waives accelerated depreciation allowance. Further analysis shows telephone industry bigger and better operated than U. S. Post Office, May 4. . . . Justice Department enters FCC hearing on allocation of radio frequencies. Takes position opposite that held by telephone industry. Justice Dept. also hostile to proposed Bell tariffs for rendition of leased-operated microwave service, May 11. . . . 12 states have laws providing reimbursement to utilities for expense of relocation caused by federal-aid highways. Minnesota law requires commission to consider current cost in setting rate base. Appellate court rules wire-tapped evidence collected by non-federal persons can be used in a federal court, May 18. . . . Fair value and original cost rate base states listed in reply to inquiry from security analyst. Gas pipe line company faces bankruptcy as result of FPC examiner's rate decision. Highway relocation reimbursement bill blocked by Maine Supreme Court, May 25.

FCC proposes to permit telephone companies use of certain exclusive radio frequencies in 450-460 Mc band. . . . Microwave radio hearing on now. Senator moves to protect federal regulatory commissions against "leaks" of information. FCC may give pay-as-you-see TV a trial run, June 1. . . . Battle shaping up in Congress over President's request that interest rates charged by federal lending agencies be raised. General buys AEC telephone plant in Richland, Wash., June 8. . . . Independents testify at FCC hearings on allocating radio frequencies above 890 megacycles. Maine Legislature repeals "present fair value" rate base requirement. REA changes requirements covering interest and principal payments, June 15. . . . Bell System representatives testify at FCC radio frequency hearing. FCC criticized by House committee for "fraternizing" with radio and TV industry. Beirne elected to 10th term as CWA president, June 29.

Wenger, Rear Adm. J. N.: Line communications in the national defense effort, April 27.

Workman, Mayme: The Operator's Corner: Jan. 5, Feb. 9, Mar. 2, Mar. 9, Mar. 23, Mar. 30, April 6, April 20, May 4, May 25, June 1, June 8, June 22.

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